

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 27-36 are pending in this application. Claims 27-32 and 34-36 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Double Patenting

Claims 27-28 and 31-36 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over at least claims 8, 9, 14, 15, 17-19 and 22 of U.S. Patent No. 5,694,576.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 27-32 and 34-36 have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submit copies of the documents that the Examiner was unable to locate as listed on the PTO-1449 forms previously submitted. Consideration of the documents is respectfully requested.

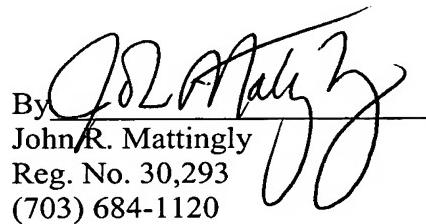
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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JRM/so
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